

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

TRSE-00 PM-03 L-03 H-02 OMB-01 /061 W

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R 130930Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4427

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SGEN, RP

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL S-121 94TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION (RECOGNITION
OF CERTAIN FILIPINO VETERNAS OF WWII)

REF: SWIFT/PALMER LETTER OF 23 MAY 75

1. EMB BELIEVES RESURRECTION OF THE QUESTION OF UNRECOGNIZED GUERRILLAS AT THIS LATE STAGE, AS PROPOSED BY SUBJECT SENATE BILL, WOULD CREATE ADMINISTRATIVE NIGHTMARE AND REOPEN PANDORA'S BOX. GOP HAS EVEN HAD DIFFICULT TIME PROCESSING CLAIMS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHOSE NAMES APPEARED ON 1948 REVISED ROSTER (SEE MANILA 11678, 1974 SERIES). THIRYY YEARS AFTER END OF WW II TO REOPEN AND ATTEMPT TO PROCESS AND SEPARATE OUT LEGITIMATE VERSUS NON-LEGITIMATE CLAIMS OF PERSONNEL NOT INCLUDED ON 1948 ROSTER WOULD CREATE VIRTUALLY INSUPERABLE PROBLEMS.

2. IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WITH ANY PRECISION HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS WOULD QUALIFY UNDER PROPOSED LEGISLATION. HOWEVER, PHILIPPINE VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CONSISTENTLY REFERRED TO 125,000 NAMES THAT WERE DELETED FROM 1948 ROSTER.

3. REGIONAL OFFICE OF VA INFORMS EMB THAT IF PROPOSED LEGIS-

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LATION PASSES. IT WOULD RESTORE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS TO

INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED: (A) DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR RESIDUALS OF SERVICE-INCURRED DISABILITIES; (B) HOSPITAL CARE AT VMH HOSPITAL FOR NON-SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES; (C) BURIAL ALLOWANCE; (D) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR WIVES, WIDOWS AND CHILDREN OF THOSE WHOM VA DETERMINES DIED AS RESULT OF SERVICE RELATED DISABILITIES; AND (E) WAR ORPHANS EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR WIVES AND CHILDREN OF THOSE NEWLY RECOGNIZED VETERANS WHO ARE FOUND BY THE VA TO BE PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED BY REASON OF SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES. AS CAN BE CLEARLY SEEN, ESTABLISHING SUCH SERVICE RELATED MATTERS AT THIS TIME IN HISTORY WOULD BE MONUMENTAL. ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN ATTEMPTING TO PROCESS SUCH CLAIMS WITH THE INEVITABLE TIME DELAYS AND DENIAL OF MANY CLAIMS WOULD ONLY REOPEN EMOTIONAL AREA TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF THE US, AN AREA THAT PERHAPS BEST TO LEAVE ALONE AND ALLOW TO DIE ITS NATURAL BUT BELATED DEATH.

4. MANILA REGIONAL OFFICE OF VA IS NOT ABLE TO COMMENT IN LIGHT OF WASHINGTON VA'S POSITION REFLECTED IN LETTER TO SENATOR HARTKE, FOR WHICH IS WAS NOT CONSULTED.

5. IT IS ASSUMED DOD WILL FOLLOW PAST PRACTICE AND REACT NEGATIVELY TO PROPOSED LEGISLATION. EMB RECOMMENDS SIMILAR POSITION BE TAKEN BY DEPT.

6. THE ABOVE EMB POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION IS NOT INCONSISTENT, OR TO BE CONFUSED WITH OUR PROPOSAL MADE IN MANILA 8044, 1974 SERIES, FOR AUTHORITY TO AMEND US/RP VETERANS CLAIMS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT. THIS PROPOSAL WAS MADE ALMOST A YEAR AGO AND IS STILL PENDING APPROVAL. EMB PROPOSED AMENDMENT CONCERNS MONEY ALREADY PROVIDED GOP, AND GOP ALONE WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE TO PROCESS AND PAY CERTAIN TYPES OF CLAIMS OF UNRECOGNIZED GUERRILLAS IT WOULD NOT INVOLVE THE USG IN SUCH PROCEDURES NOR WOULD IT INVOLVE PROVIDING VA BENEFITS CITED IN PARA 3 ABOVE. REQUEST DEPT AGAIN DETERMINE STATUS OF THIS REQUEST (SEE MANILA 1733 AND 3434).
PURNELL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Film Number: D750206-0709
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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